

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 MCT-01

EUR-12 OPR-02 SY-05 IO-13 /097 W

----- 128648

R 011533Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9848

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP ON INTERNAL SITUATION

1. SYRIAN RESIDENT OF ALEPPO REPORTED SERIES OF BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN THAT CITY BEFORE, DURING, AND FOLLOWING ID HOLIDAY WHICH, ALLEGEDLY, RESULTED IN SOME CASUALTIES. LATEST EXPLOSION WAS SEPT. 29 AT CROWDED ALEPPO CINEMA. SARG INTELLIGENCE OFFICE IN DAMASCUS HIT BY BOMB EXPLOSION TEN DAYS AGO WHICH KILLED SOME INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL. BRITISH EMBASSY CLAIMS THEY HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PLANNED LATTER INCIDENT. RSO LEARNED TWO G-2 OFFICES SUBJECT TO SNIPER FIRE IN DAMASCUS SEPT. 29 (PERPETRATORS NOT YET IDENTIFIED). BOMB ALSO EXPLODED IN DAMASCUS SAME DAY AND REPORTEDLY KILLED SMALL CHILD.

2. BRITISH ALSO REPORT CLASH IN LATAKIA TWO-THREE WEEKS AGO BETWEEN ALAWITES AND SUNNIS. BRITISH BELIEVE RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IN LATAKIA HAVE HEIGHTENED AS RESULT LEBANESE CRISIS.

3. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM WELL-PLACED BAATHIST RUMOR MAKING ROUNDS IN DAMASCUS THAT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT MADE AGAINST PRES. ASAD

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MORNING OF SEPT. 24 AS HE PROCEEDED OMAYYAD MOSQUE FOR ID PRAYERS.

4. REGULAR SYRIAN SOURCE REPORTED THAT FOUR OFFICERS AND TWO CIVILAINS ESCAPED FROM DAMASCUS PRISON FEW DAYS AGO, TO EMBARRASSMENT OF INTERIOR MIN DABBAGH.

5. COMMENT: BRITISH INFORMATION THAT ONE BOMBING INCIDENT PLANNED BY MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, IF TRUE, IMPLIES THAT PALESTINIANS AND IRAQIS HAVE LOCAL ALLIES IN BOMBING CAMPAIGN TO UNDERMINE REGIME'S AUTHORITY. MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PRESUMABLY SEEKING TO REVENGE DEATH OF SHEIKH MARWAN HADID (REPORTEDLY DAMASCUS 4883). ASSASSINATION RUMOR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED HIGHLY SPECULATIVE UNTIL INFORMATION OBTAINED TO CORROBRATE IT.
MURPHY

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